

I know other Members of the Michigan delegation and of other States are committed, but now is the time to step up to the plate and show that we will follow through on our responsibilities as representatives of the people.

Finally, if we are to solve this crisis, the State of Michigan must step up with substantial long-term support for the people of Flint and help them fully recover in the years and decades ahead. This disaster happened on their watch, and it is an immense failure on the part of the State of Michigan to protect the health and safety of its city's residents.

Despite the grim facts of this tragedy, some day in the future I hope we will look back at today and say it was a milestone and a turning point. I am optimistic that we will. This is not the end of our efforts for Flint. This is the beginning of making things right.

We won't stop fighting for what is best for Flint families. I urge all of my colleagues to continue working to invest in critical water infrastructure so that we never, ever see a crisis like this again anywhere in our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PUERTO RICAN TASK FORCE'S INTERIM REPORT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, pursuant to section 409 of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA, P.L. 114-187, the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico has been charged with compiling a report by December 31, 2016, that identifies impediments to growth and recommends changes to promote long-term economic growth and stability, spur new job creation, reduce child poverty, and attract investment in the territory.

The statute also requires submission of an interim report on the status of the task force's efforts to the House and Senate. As chairman of the task force and after having submitted this report to leadership of both parties in the Senate and the House, I ask unanimous consent that the report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PUERTO RICO

##### STATUS UPDATE TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE

##### Background:

On June 30, 2016, the "Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act," or "PROMESA," was signed into law (Public Law 114-187). Section 409 of

PROMESA establishes an eight-member Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico (hereafter, "Task Force").

The Task Force has two basic charges:

1. To issue, between September 1, 2016 and September 15, 2016, a status update to the House and Senate that includes—

a. information the Task Force has collected; and

b. a discussion on matters the chairman of the Task Force deems urgent for consideration by Congress.

2. To issue, not later than December 31, 2016, a report of Task Force findings to the House and Senate regarding—

a. impediments in current Federal law and programs to economic growth in Puerto Rico including equitable access to Federal health care programs;

b. recommended changes to Federal law and programs that, if adopted, would serve to spur sustainable long-term economic growth, job creation, reduce child poverty, and attract investment in Puerto Rico;

c. the economic effect of Administrative Order No. 346 of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (relating to natural products, natural supplements, and dietary supplements) or any successor or substantially similar order, rule, or guidance of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

d. additional information the Task Force deems appropriate.

Further, PROMESA urges the Task Force's final report to reflect the shared views of all eight members "to the greatest extent practicable." PROMESA also directs the Task Force to consult with the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and the private sector of Puerto Rico.

Task Force Members were selected in July in accordance with specifications in PROMESA, and are as follows: Senator Orrin Hatch, (R-UT); Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ); Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL); Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL); Representative Tom MacArthur (R-NJ); Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi (PR); Representative Sean Duffy (R-WI); Representative Nydia Velázquez (D-NY).

This report provides the status update pursuant to the Task Force's first basic charge, highlighting information the Task Force has collected and outlining the Task Force's ongoing activities related to information gathering, analysis of policy options, and communication with stakeholders.

Residents of Puerto Rico and their families face numerous challenges to economic growth along many dimensions affected by Federal law and programs, including health care, government finances, economic stagnation, population loss, and sectoral inefficiencies. In addition, Puerto Rico is confronting challenges shared with several states related to the Zika virus and faces the highest number of confirmed cases of any U.S. jurisdiction. Task Force Members are actively working to arrive at a consensus in order to provide Congress with findings and recommendations as called for under PROMESA.

Information the Task Force has collected:

##### Data

Task Force staff convened a meeting with researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to discuss sources of data on Puerto Rico's economy and financial activities. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York oversees the Second District of the Federal Reserve System, which includes Puerto Rico. Researchers and analysts at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York have a long history of monitoring economic and financial developments in Puerto Rico and provided useful information to Task Force staff on available

data to assist the Task Force in analyzing the economic and financial environment in the territory.

Task Force staff have also been in contact with entities within Puerto Rico, including the Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics (Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico), to obtain the best available information about Puerto Rico's economic and fiscal situation.

Like other observers, the Task Force is concerned about the relative lack of reliable data pertaining to certain aspects of the economic, financial, and fiscal situation in Puerto Rico, which are necessary for productive analyses that may lead to sound public policy recommendations.

Therefore, the Task Force intends to analyze the extent to which Federal statistical products that measure economic and financial activity in the states might also provide equivalent information for Puerto Rico and other territories, and the Task Force intends to explore ways in which any such data gaps can be responsibly closed.

##### Task Force Email Portal

The Task Force established an email portal—[prttaskforce@mail.house.gov](mailto:prttaskforce@mail.house.gov)—and issued press releases calling on stakeholders to submit their input to this portal. These written submissions, from both the public and private sectors, will be useful to the Task Force as it works to arrive at bipartisan recommendations. All submissions will be considered part of the public record and the Task Force intends to publish them prior to or along with its final report. To date, the Task Force has received approximately 335 submissions to the email portal from individuals and organizations representing a wide variety of interests. Task Force staff have begun analyzing these submissions and will continue to do so as the year progresses.

The Task Force initially announced a deadline for submission to the email portal of September 2, 2016. The Task Force has since extended the deadline until October 14, 2016 in order to cast the widest net possible and to ensure that stakeholders have ample opportunity to provide input.

##### Federal Agencies

As a U.S. jurisdiction, Puerto Rico is affected by Federal laws enacted by Congress and administered by Federal agencies. Accordingly, the Task Force, in order to fulfill its charges under PROMESA, will require input and cooperation from various Federal agencies and offices Task Force staff have begun, and will continue, to contact congressional liaisons from Federal agencies and offices to schedule briefings and facilitate information sharing.

Thus far, Task Force staff have contacted officials at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to open a dialogue regarding Federal health policy and its impact on Puerto Rico. Task Force staff have also contacted officials at the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency to discuss a range of topics, including the inclusion, or lack thereof, of Puerto Rico in economic measures commonly used to gauge economic and financial activities in states. The U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury have also been contacted to discuss critical energy, environmental, health, and economic issues. Task Force staff expect to contact officials at additional Federal agencies to obtain pertinent information.

Task Force Members urge all Federal agencies and offices contacted by Task Force staff to recognize the relatively brief time period in which the Task Force is required to

operate, and welcome prompt responses to requests for information and willingness to meet with Task Force staff on short notice to provide background and briefing materials. Moreover, Task Force Members emphasize the need for bipartisan cooperation as the Task Force works to arrive at findings and recommendations.

#### Congressional Support

The Task Force expects to benefit from the support of available congressional support offices, most notably the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Task Force staff have contacted JCT, which will provide a briefing in the near term to discuss the application of Federal tax policy in Puerto Rico, as well as individual, corporate, and other tax proposals put forward in recent years by stakeholders in Puerto Rico and in Congress. Staff have reached out to CRS researchers for updates on previously-issued CRS reports related to Puerto Rico and have scheduled briefings on a number of germane issues.

#### Offices and Agencies in Puerto Rico

As noted above, PROMESA specifically requires the Task Force to consult with the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and the private sector of Puerto Rico.

Task Force staff have begun outreach to leaders of the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, and welcome any input and recommendations that they wish to provide. Task Force staff have also contacted the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and welcome input and recommendations from the Secretary and other officials at the agency. Similarly, Task Force staff have contacted the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Health to obtain input with respect to the Department's Administrative Order No. 346. Consultation with entities in the private sector of Puerto Rico has also been ongoing and will continue throughout this process.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my thanks and congratulations to a venerable Kentucky business trade association that is celebrating a milestone anniversary of service to its members and its customers. The Kentucky Bankers Association, a nonprofit trade association serving Kentucky's community financial services industry, celebrates its 125th anniversary this October.

Founded in October of 1891, the Kentucky Bankers Association, KBA, represents State and federally chartered banks and thrifts. It has 185 member banks, 167 of which are headquartered in Kentucky. Not only do KBA's member banks provide high-quality service to the people of the Commonwealth, but they also employ more than 23,000 Kentuckians.

The purpose of the Kentucky Bankers Association is to provide advocacy for the financial services industry both in Kentucky and on the national level. The organization also serves as a fount of information to its members on the banking industry and acts as a catalyst

for internal debate and action within the industry and among its members. It also publishes an industry magazine to provide news and information to its members. And by providing loans to Kentucky businesses, they enable future business growth and spur the creation of new jobs.

KBA has served its members for 125 years, and many of KBA's member banks have also been serving their customers for a long time. The oldest bank chartered in Kentucky was established in 1835, making it 181 years old. And the average age of Kentucky chartered banks is 84 years old. Kentuckians who bank with KBA's members have counted on and appreciated their high level of service for generations.

I also want to congratulate my friend Ballard Cassady, the president and CEO of KBA, as he has served in that position for 30 years. His dedication to the KBA is equaled only by KBA member banks' dedication to their customers.

Kentucky community banks are integral parts of the local neighborhoods they serve. And the KBA plays a vital role in representing these community financial institutions. I want to extend my gratitude to the KBA, Mr. Cassady, and KBA leadership for 125 years of service to Kentucky's community financial institutions and their consumers. And I wish to thank KBA's member banks across the Commonwealth for their long-standing commitment to the people of Kentucky.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN BEL EDWARDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I recognize Governor John Bel Edwards, who is celebrating his 50th birthday on September 16, 2016.

Governor Edwards is a committed public servant who has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Louisiana residents. A Louisiana native, Governor Edwards graduated from Amite High School as valedictorian of his class. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point 4 years later, he bravely served our country as an airborne ranger in the U.S. Army. Following his service, Governor Edwards attended law school at Louisiana State University, where he graduated Order of the Coif, the prestigious honor society for our Nation's brightest law school graduates.

In 2008, Governor Edwards was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. Throughout his tenure, he worked diligently to ensure that the needs of Louisiana residents were met. His Democratic colleagues recognized his unwavering commitment to public service and his steadfast leadership ability, and they elected him as chairman of the Louisiana House Democratic Caucus.

It comes as no surprise that Governor Edwards has already achieved a number of accomplishments on behalf of Louisiana since he became the Governor of the State in January 2016. He has led State legislators in addressing

Louisiana's most pressing issues, including the State's budget crisis, historic flood events that have damaged more than 100,000 homes throughout the State, and several tornadoes that have impacted many of the State's most vulnerable residents. In addition to managing the response to these crises, Governor Edwards is implementing programs that are critical to the success and well-being of Louisiana residents, such as Medicaid expansion and major infrastructure development projects.

Governor Edwards is married to his high-school sweetheart, Donna Edwards, and they have three beautiful children: Samantha Bel, Sarah Ellen, and John Miller. I join the Governor's family, friends, and the residents of Louisiana in wishing him a very happy 50th birthday. His dedication to Louisiana is commendable, and I look forward learning about his future success on behalf of the residents of Louisiana and all Americans.

#### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to celebrate the bipartisan passage of this year's Water Resources Development Act. This critically important legislation will help keep our drinking water safe, move goods on Illinois waterways, protect communities from flooding and preserve the precious natural resources that are our rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Our Nation's water infrastructure plays a vital role in protecting our communities from flooding, safeguarding our drinking water from contamination, and advancing commerce through the safe and secure movement of goods. The safety of the American people and the stability of the American economy depend on the reliability of our water infrastructure.

But our water infrastructure in the U.S. is aging and overburdened, and investment is not keeping up with the need. We have locks and dams that are crumbling, in serious need of maintenance and upgrades, and lead water pipes that are long overdue for replacement. What happened in Flint has shown just how vulnerable our water infrastructure is and why investing in it is so important. That is why I was proud to support the passage of the Water Resource and Development Act of 2016, which makes significant investments in water infrastructure around the country.

I am proud to report that much of the water infrastructure funding in this bill will benefit my home State of Illinois. The bill authorizes a final feasibility report on phase II of the Des Plaines River Project, which will provide flood risk management and environmental restoration on the Upper Des Plaines River and tributaries in Illinois and Wisconsin. The bill also includes language that expedites the